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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C
DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77
Auth: DDA REG. 77/1783
Date: 300378 By: 025

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY China

DATE: 25X1X6

INFO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT Political Information: Communists in East River Area, Kwangtung

DIST. 12 December 1946

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PAGES 1

SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN [REDACTED]

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EVALUATION OF CONTENT

This area from Tanshui (114-28, 22-47) to Huiyang (114-26, 23-05) and Laolungssu (115-20, 24-30) is under the control of the Communists. Practically the whole population in the area is pro-Communist.

TSENG Sheng (曾生) and WANG Tso-yao (王作堯), former leaders of the Kwangtung Communist East River Column who were repatriated to Shantung Province by Executive Headquarters Field Team Number Eight, have returned to Kwangtung and are again in command of the East River Communists, now called Chi O Tuan (饑餓團), translated the "Hunger Regiment".

The Communists control all boats sailing between Huiyang and Laolungssu, charging passengers CMC \$10,000 between the two cities. High officials sent by the National Government to take care of the area all prefer to leave the area "for good". Source stated that he was afraid even to step out of his headquarters at Huiyang. Because of fear of the Communists, he had not reported to his superiors two cases of Communist blackmailing of merchants. He believed that it would take at least five years for the Government to "clean up the area".

Note: According to a Chinese-American who was with the

East River Column for two years before joining the American Army, it would be extremely difficult for the National Government to control this area. It has always been independent in spirit and has not been under Government control for many years because of the operation of the East River Column (or Guerrillas) in this area. The Chinese of this area are clannish, regarding government officials and garrisons as "Northerners" and strangers, of whom the natives are wary. This source stated that the appearance of a stranger in the area was immediately noted and the news spread around to surrounding villages. Because of the topography of the region the people have lived in comparative isolation, not moving out even during the war, becoming instead, a Communist pocket between the Japanese and the Nationalists. During the war little political training or propaganda was used by the East River Column. Source, however, did often hear the slogan, "This land is the land of the people". When source was again in the area in March 1946, he found the Communists much better equipped (with Japanese arms) and better organized. They had also acquired several good radios with which they were able to maintain contact with Xanan.)

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Approved For Release 1999/09/08 : CIA-RDP82-00457R000200040006-3

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